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Top Stories

Stabenow speaks to local leaders, says 'stop Canadian trash now'

By Cheryl Holladay

August 28, 2003

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) met with community leaders Aug. 21 at the Comfort Suites Lakeside, Houghton Lake.

Stabenow spoke about her efforts to stop Canadian trash from being imported to Michigan and took audience questions about health care, education, prescription drugs and homeland security.

Her position on the trash issue is that the U.S. government needs to "stop Canadian trash now."

In news flyers that encourage constituents to mail the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency via her Lansing office, she said that Toronto is shipping all of its trash, 1.1 million tons, to landfills in Michigan. More than 160 truckloads of waste cross the border to Michigan every day, she said, over the Ambassador Bridge and the Blue Water Bridge.

"Not only does this waste dramatically decrease Michigan's own landfill capacity," the news flyer states, "but it has a tremendous negative impact on Michigan's environment and the public health of our citizens. The Canadian waste also hampers the effectiveness of Michigan's state and local recycling efforts, since Ontario does not have a bottle law requiring recycling."

Stabenow talked with those in attendance. She spoke with County commissioner Bill McCaleb on the issue of health care.

"This is the biggest thing I'm hearing from everybody," she said. "We've got to get a handle on all this."

She said the pharmaceutical companies spend more money on advertising than on research. She said when people have to choose between eating and buying prescriptions, "There's something wrong here."

Stabenow told the Resorter the country needs a real solution to the medical coverage problem. She said jobs, education and health care are her top concerns.

She said the U.S. is spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq and is concerned that the bill isn't being shared by other countries.

Stabenow said she grew up in Clare and is familiar with Houghton Lake. In fact, she said, she spent a lot of time at the Music Box and has been to Tip-up Town several times.


She worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide \$750,000 in the last two years to fight Houghton Lake's Eurasian water milfoil infestation.

"I'm very aware of that problem," she said.

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